

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

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INFO AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR PO

SUBJ: REORGANIZATION OF MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

SUMMARY: MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAS ANNOUNCED CERTAIN ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES AFFECTING RETIREMENT, ENTRANCE, AND CAREER ADVANCEMENT OF PORTUGUESE DIPLOMATS. MINISTRY HAS ALSO ANNOUNCED IMPENDING PERSONNEL RESHUFFLES. END SUMMARY.

1. BY PUBLICATION OF A DECREE-LAW MODIFYING MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS' BASIC STATUTE (WHICH DATES FROM 1966), SEVERAL ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES ARE BEING INTRODUCED. THE PRINCIPLE CHANGES CONCERN:

A. RETIREMENT - TWO AGE LIMITS WILL BE RECOGNIZED. THOSE EMPLOYEES NOT SERVING ABROAD WILL BE SUBJECT TO THE SAME RETIREMENT AGE APPLYING TO GOP EMPLOYEES IN GENERAL. THOSE SERVING ABROAD WILL RETIRE AT AGE 65, PROVIDED THEY

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ALREADY HAVE 40 YEARS OF GOVERNMENT SERVICE ACCUMULATED;

LACKING 40 YEARS OF SERVICE, THEY WILL FILL VACANCIES AT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY IN LISBON (IF VACANCIES EXIST) OR WILL BE "ON CALL" IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE NEEDS OF THE SERVICE. (PREVIOUS REGULATIONS ALSO SET FORTH TWO AGE LIMITS - 65 FOR THOSE SERVING ABROAD AND 70 FOR THOSE SERVING IN LISBON. HOWEVER, BY MEANS OF SPECIAL DECISIONS OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, OFFICERS ABROAD COULD BE ALLOWED THREE YEARS OF ADDITIONAL SERVICE, TO AGE 68).

B. ENTRANCE - ALL PORTUGUESE CITIZENS WHO CAN PASS THE ENTRANCE EXAMS WILL BE ENTITLED TO JOIN THE FOREIGN SERVICE. (PREVIOUSLY IT WAS REQUIRED THAT APPLICANTS HAVE STUDIED CERTAIN UNIVERSITY COURSES DEEMED PARTICULARLY APPROPRIATE TO A CAREER IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE. THE BAR AGAINST WOMEN, WHO PREVIOUSLY WERE NOT ALLOWED INTO THE FOREIGN SERVICE UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, WAS REMOVED EARLY-ON IN THE POST-APRIL 25 PERIOD).

C. CAREER ADVANCEMENT - PORTUGUESE EMBASSIES MAY NOW BE HEADED BY FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS OF THE PERSONAL RANK OF AMBASSADOR, MINISTER PLENIPOTENTIARY OF EITHER THE FIRST OR SECOND CLASS, OR BY COUNSELORS OF EMBASSY. REGARDLESS OF PERSONAL RANK, SUCH OFFICERS WILL BE ENTITLED TO THE FULL HONORS ATTACHING TO THE TITLE OF THE MISSION THEY HEAD.

2. THE FOLLOWING PERSONNEL CHANGES ARE OF INTEREST:

A. ANTONIO DE MAGALHAES COLACO - COUNSELOR OF EMBASSY, CAPETOWN CONSULATE GENERAL, TRANSFERRED TO LISBON (CHIEF OF EUROPE AND AMERICA SECTION);

B. FRANCISCO BORGES GRAINHA DO VALE - COUNSELOR OF EMBASSY, SAO PAULO CONSULATE GENERAL, TRANSFERRED TO LISBON (CHIEF OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS SECTION).

3. COMMENT: ONE OF THE MAIN MOTIVATING FACTORS BEHIND THESE CHANGES IS PORTUGAL'S NEED TO EXPAND RAPIDLY ITS CAREER FOREIGN SERVICE IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO STAFF THE NEW EMBASSIES IT PLANS TO OPEN ALMOST IMMEDIATELY IN EASTERN EUROPE, AND, IT HOPES IN THE NEAR FUTURE, IN ARAB AND AFRICAN COUNTRIES. FROM A LIST OF POST REPORTS BORROWED FROM THE EMBASSY BY THE FONOFF, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT PORTUGAL WILL BE SEEKING TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WITH THE FOLLOWING ARAB, ASIAN AND AFRICAN COUNTRIES:
ALGERIA, LEBANON, LIBYA, IRAQ, MOROCCO, SYRIA, TUNISIA,
BANGLADESH, CHINA (PRC), INDIA, INDONESIA, MALAYSIA,
PAKISTAN, SINGAPORE, ETHIOPIA, GHANA, GUINEA, IVORY COAST,
KENYA, MADAGASCAR, NIGERIA, SENEGAL, TANZANIA, ZAMBIA.
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